

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stream data reproducing apparatus for reading out stream data stored in a first continuous sequence in a recording medium and reproducing the data in a second sequence different from the first continuous sequence, comprising:

a reading device [processing portion] for reading out the stream data up to a branch position in the first continuous sequence, and thereafter branching the reading and reading the stream data from a branch destination in the first continuous sequence ~~from the recording medium~~ according to branch definition information stored in the recording medium, the branch definition information having information indicating the branch position and information indicating the branch destination ~~stored in the recording medium~~; and

a processor [processing portion] for reproducing the read out stream data in the second sequence.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein

the branch definition information further has information indicating the number of branches, and

the reading device [processing portion] is operable to read out the stream data according to the number of branches.

4. (currently amended) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the branch definition information further has

information indicating whether or not to permit branching, and  
the reading device [processing portion] is operable to perform a branch in reading out the stream data only if branching is permitted.

5. (previously presented) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the recording medium is a portable recording medium.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
the recording medium is a portable recording medium.

8. (previously presented) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
the recording medium is a portable recording medium.

9. (currently amended) A method of reading out ~~and reproducing~~ stream data stored in a first continuous sequence in a recording medium and reproducing the stream data in a second sequence different from the first continuous sequence, comprising the steps of:

reading out from the recording medium branch definition information indicating a branch position in the first continuous sequence and a branch destination in the first continuous sequence ~~from the recording medium;~~

reading out the stream data up to the branch position in the stream data, and thereafter branching the reading and reading the stream data from the branch destination ~~from the recording medium according to the branch definition information;~~

and

reproducing the read out stream data in the second sequence.

10. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a stream data reproducing program, the stream data being recorded in a first continuous sequence, the program comprising code for:

reading out from the recording medium branch definition information indicating a branch position in the first continuous sequence and a branch destination in the first continuous sequence ~~from the recording medium~~;

reading out stream data up to the branch position in the stream data, and thereafter branching the reading and reading the stream data from the branch destination ~~from the recording medium according to the branch definition information~~;

and

reproducing the read out stream data in the second sequence.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (new) The stream data reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second sequence is a continuous sequence.

14. (new) The method of reading out stream data according to claim 9, wherein the second sequence is a continuous sequence.

15. (new) The recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the second sequence is a continuous sequence.